

HISTORY OF USS YOUNG (DD 580)

Operations in the Aleutians, off the Kurile Islands of Japan, and throughout the Philippines earned the destroyer USS YOUNG five battle stars during World War II. She also wears five Setting Sun flags on her gun director for shooting down 5 Japanese planes unassisted and helping to dispose of two others during one attack.

The ship was built by the Consolidated Steel Company, Orange, Texas. Her keel was laid in their yards on 7 May 1942 and she was launched on 15 October of the same year. Mrs. J. M. Schelling, wife of Captain J. M. Schelling, USN, Supervisor of Shipbuilding at Orange, Texas, christened the vessel.

The first vessel so named was the DD 312 launched on 8 May 1919 at Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corporation, San Francisco, California, sponsored by Mrs. John D. Nolan, wife of the Congressman from San Francisco. The ship was named for Captain John Young of Philadelphia who commanded the INDEPENDENCE 1776-1777. He sailed from Cape Francis on 20 May 1781 in command of the SARATOGA which was separated from her consorts and apparently floundered at sea. After routine service the USS YOUNG (DD 312) was sold in 1925.

The DD 580 was named in honor of Rear Admiral Lucien Young, USN, who was born in Kentucky in 1852. Young was appointed a midshipman in 1869 and while so serving on board the ALASKA, on 23 July 1873, he jumped overboard while underway at sea to save the life of a seaman who had been knocked overboard. He was mentioned in a General Order by the Secretary of the Navy for his extraordinary heroism and awarded a gold medal from the New York Benevolent and Life Saving Institution, together with a certificate the Humane Society of Massachusetts.

He served in the POWHATAN in 1875 and 1876; then transferring to the HURON, a small vessel of 507 tons attached to the North Atlantic Squadron. The HURON arrived at Hampton Roads, Virginia, after a trip to New York for repairs, on 17 November 1877, under instructions to make a scientific reconnaissance of the coast of Cuba. She went to sea on 23 November and late in the day encountered a moderate gale and heavy sea. Shortly afterwards, she struck upon the beach near Nag's Head, North Carolina, and was wrecked. Ninety-eight of her crew were lost. Ensign Young and Seaman Antonio Williams succeeded, after great exertion, in reaching the shore. Young sent a horseman to a telegraph station at the life-saving depot seven miles away while he, bruised and barefoot, walked four miles in the sand to another telegraph and life saving station. Breaking it open, he got out the mortar lines and powder. The local sheriff took them up abreast the wreck with a mule team, but by the time they arrived no one was alive on the ship.

In 1898 he commanded the HIST during the Spanish-American War, participating in the engagement at Manzanillo, Cuba, on 30 June 1898. He cut the cable between Manzanillo and Santa Cruz del Sur on 10 July 1898, thereby preventing communication and hindering the inland traffic with Manzanillo. Young died with the rank of Rear Admiral on 2 October 1912.

The USS YOUNG (DD 580), was placed in commission on 31 July 1943, under the command of Lieutenant Commander George B. Madden, USN. Her crew for the most part came directly from various Naval Training Stations and schools; hence, the shakedown cruise which followed was necessarily an active one.

Operating out of Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the YOUNG's first operation was acting as carrier escort and plane guard for the USS LANGLEY. Then she was assigned as one of the destroyers which escorted the USS IOWA part of the way to Casablanca with President Roosevelt embarked. Orders then directed the ship to join the Pacific fleet.

Proceeding by way of the Panama Canal, the YOUNG arrived in the Pacific on 24 November 1943. Upon arriving in Pearl Harbor, she was ordered to the Northern Pacific theater by way of San Francisco. In January of 1944 she arrived in the Aleutian area, where she continued to operate in icy, fog-bound weather for a year.

Her baptism of fire came early in February when she was one of the Task Force which bombarded the Japanese homeland for the first time in the war. At Paramushiro in the Kurile chain, the expanding enemy naval installations were fired upon. After several months of patrolling and operating out of Adak, Alaska, the ship participated in the second and third bombardments of the Kuriles, at Matsuwa on 13 June 1944 and on 26 June 1944 at Paramushiro.

The next few months were spent in routine anti-submarine and anti-aircraft patrols. On 26 August Captain Madden was relieved by Lieutenant Commander Donald G. Dockum.

Following more patrol duty in the Aleutians, the ship was ordered back to the mainland for a welcome period of recreation and overhaul. On 6 October 1944 she left the Golden Gate and headed for the Western Pacific for duty with the 7th Fleet, in the Philippines. Reporting to the Fleet at Manus, Admiralty Islands, on 31 October, she was made part of the anti-submarine screen escorting a troop convoy to reinforce the newly-won beachheads on Leyte. The group arrived in Leyte Gulf on 18 November in the midst of a very hostile reception. Three aircraft were shot down by the screen in the ensuing air attacks.

The YOUNG was then assigned to the tough job of escorting the first resupply echelon to Mindoro--steaming for two and a half days through waters within easy reach of enemy airbases. There were eleven destroyers, fourteen LSTs, six cargo ships, four LCIs and an Army tanker in the group. The first action came about 1700 on 21 December 1944 when about 25 planes attacked the convoy, hitting two LSTs and one Liberty ship. The YOUNG downed five of the planes unassisted, and helped knock down two more.

On 9 January operations against Luzon began and the YOUNG was one of the ships that composed the formidable array of naval power off Lingayen Gulf. Again the convoy was brought under air attack, and several vessels of the invasion forces were hit by Kamikazes.

As the ground forces proceeded south from Lingayen, a second assault force was formed to land at San Francisco, later to make a juncture with the Lingayen force north of Manila. On the morning of 29 January the attack group was off San Antonio preparing to launch an intensive bombardment.

Filipinos could be seen on the beach, and the YOUNG, sent ahead to scout the situation, spied a small boat heading out from the beach. Risking deception, the ship stopped and took the courier aboard, a guerrilla lieutenant who informed them that they had already taken the area. The bombardment was cancelled and the landing proceeded without opposition well ahead of schedule.

The YOUNG's next operation was the capture of Manila Bay. Early on the morning of 16 February 1945 the cruisers and destroyers assigned began blasting away at Corregidor, key to the port. After intensive bombing and strafing from the air, the island was taken by paratroopers and infantry boated from Mariveles to Malinta Hill. The YOUNG, PICKING and WICKES followed the mine-sweepers in to saturate the area. The troops hit the beach at 1030 to cut the island in two and to seize the commanding terrain.

For the next few months the ship enjoyed a respite, spending most of her time in Subic Bay, with intermittent patrol activities. Her last action against the Japanese took place in April when the 7th Fleet supported landings in the Malabang-Parang-Cotabato area on Mindanao.

On 21 May 1945 the ship received good news. Instead of rejoining her squadron, now in the thick of the Okinawa campaign, she was ordered to return to Pearl Harbor for a 47-day overhaul at the Mare Island Navy Yard.

Following a post-repair shakedown cruise at San Diego, the ship set out again for Pearl Harbor, but the atomic bomb and subsequent peace negotiations had resulted in a cessation of hostilities by the time she reached port. Her first peace time duties were acting as plane guard for the SARATOGA off Maui Island, during which she retrieved several pilots from the water at night.

On 25 September 1945 the YOUNG joined various elements of the THIRD Fleet and headed for the East Coast to participate in the Navy Day ceremonies, carrying 120 SeaBees home for discharge. On 27 October she anchored at New York for review by President Truman and other dignitaries. On 1 November she left New York for Charleston, South Carolina and an inactive status. After the work of preservation had been completed, she was placed in reserve on 31 January 1946 with a skeleton crew on board for maintenance.

The USS YOUNG earned 5 battle stars on the Asiatic-Pacific Area Service Medal for participation in the following operations:

1 Star/Kurile Islands Operation

Masashi-Wan-Kurabu-Zaki -- 4 February 1944

Matsuwa -- 13 June 1944

Kurabu Zaki -- 26 June 1944

1 Star/Leyte landings -- 18 November 1944

- 1 Star/Lingayen Gulf landings -- 9 January 1945
- 1 Star/Mindanao landings -- 9-11, 16-17 March, 17-23 April 1945
- 1 Star/Manila Bay - Bicol operations
 - Zambales-Subic Bay -- 29-31 January 1945
 - Mariveles-Corregidor -- 15-28 February 1945

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STATISTICS

OVERALL LENGTH	376 feet
BEAM	40 feet
SPEED	35 knots
DISPLACEMENT	2050 tons
COMPLEMENT	16 officers and 309 men

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Compiled: 27 April 1954

U.S.S. YOUNG (DD580)
Fleet Post Office
New York City, New York

The U.S.S. YOUNG (DD580) was commissioned at Orange, Texas in July 1943, under command of Lieutenant Commander George B. Madden. Her first and only assignment of interest in the Atlantic was as part of the Anti-submarine screen for the U.S.S. IOWA on its mission to carry the President to the Casa Blanca conference.

In the winter of 1943 she joined the NINTH FLEET at our newly attained Alutian bases and participated in the first shore bombardment of the Japanese home islands, making altogether six raids on the Kuriles during the spring and summer of 1944.

In the fall of 1944 under command of her present skipper, Commander Donald G. Dockum, who was ordered to the Southwest Pacific, arriving at Manus in the Admiralty Islands in time to join the supporting screen of the first resupply convoy for our initial Phillipine Beachhead at Leyte.

From that time forward she was actively engaged with various task units of the SEVENTH FLEET in the liberation of the Phillipines, serving as anti-submarine and anti-aircraft screen for amphibious as well as major warship attack operations and as fire support vessel in several bombardments of shore installations including Mindoro, Lingayen Gulf, San Narciso and Mindanao.

While supporting a minesweeping group preparatory to invasion of Corregidor and Mariveles, she was the first American destroyer to reenter Manila Bay since its capture by the Japanese in 1942.

The ship is credited officially with a bag of five kamikazes, one of which was brought down at night in full radar control.

ENCLOSURE "A" to
U.S.S. YOUNG (DD580)
Serial: 206.

SO10 3 3

U.S.S. YOUNG (DD580)
Fleet Post Office
New York City, New York.

What may be considered a news worthy incident was on the occasion of the landing at San Narciso, on Luzon Island above Subic Bay. Plans had been laid for the customary pulverizing bombardment prior to H-hour, her assignment being to proceed to point blank range of the area for the purpose of testing enemy shore installations. Gambling heavily on an unintelligible wig-wag signal from a small native sail boat, she stopped and received aboard its occupant who proved to be a lieutenant of the Phillipine Guerrillas, with the report that the area had been taken by them from the Japanese only the day before. As a result of this maneuver, the devastating and costly bombardment was avoided, and daylight found scores of friendly natives, who otherwise would have been slaughtered, eagerly giving our amphibious forces a helping hand in disembarking supplies on the beachhead. Resultant speeding up of the operation permitted a speedy cross country advance by the army on Subic Bay over which our flag was flying some twenty-four hours later.

ENCLOSURE "B" to
Serial: 206

SO10 3 3

MAR 11 1946

U.S.S. YOUNG (DD580)
U. S. NAVAL BASE
CHARLESTON, S.C.

DD580/A12
Serial 67

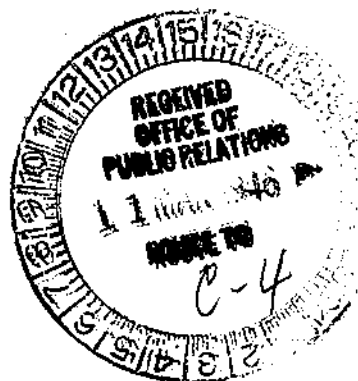
27 February 1946

From: Commanding Officer.
To : Secretary of the Navy, (Public Information Office).
Subject: War Record of U.S.S. YOUNG (DD580) - Forwarding of.
Reference: (a) ALLant 70-45.
Enclosure: (A) War History of U.S.S. YOUNG (DD580).

1. Enclosure (A) is hereby forwarded in compliance with reference (a).

A. E. Baughman
A. E. BAUGHMAN.

cc: CinCLant (2)
ComDesLant (2)



MAR 11 1946

WAR HISTORY OF U.S.S. YOUNG (DD580)

The U.S.S. YOUNG (DD580) was the last of twelve ships originally contracted for by the Navy with the Consolidated Shipbuilding Company in Orange, Texas. She was commissioned on 31 July 1943, and the Command assumed by George P. Madden, Lt. Comdr., U.S. Navy. Her crew was, for the most part, a green one, coming directly from various Naval Training Stations and Schools; hence the shakedown period in the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean that followed was necessarily an active one.

Operating out of Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the YOUNG'S first operation was acting as carrier escort and plane guard for the U.S.S. LANGESBY. The YOUNG was honored by being one of the destroyers which escorted the U.S.S. IOWA part way to Casa Blanca with President Roosevelt aboard. This duty was of short duration, for orders arrived directing her to join the Pacific Fleet. Proceeding by the way of the Panama Canal, she arrived in the Pacific on the 24th of November 1943 and commenced her none too pacific career. Upon arriving at Pearl Harbor, Pacific Fleet Headquarters, she was ordered to go to the Northern Pacific Theater by way of San Francisco, and in January of 1944, the YOUNG arrived in the Alaskan-Aleutian Area, there to remain at the mercy of that infamous weather for a year.

The YOUNG'S baptism of fire was early in February when she was one of the Task Force which, for the first time in the war, subjected Japan to bombardment. This was at Paramushiro in the Kurile chain, where expanding Naval installations were fired upon. After several months of patrolling and operating out of Adak, Alaska, she participated in the second and third bombardments of the Kurile Islands, the former at Matsua on 13 June 1944 and the latter on the 26th of the same month against Paramushiro again.

The next few months were spent in the usual anti-submarine and anti-aircraft patrolling and the no mean task of keeping the ship a going concern in those treacherous waters. On 26 August 1944 there was a relief of command, Captain Madden being relieved by Lt. Comdr. Donald G. Dockum, already a veteran of the Pacific war from the Solomons Islands campaign.

Following more patrolling in the Aleutians, the ship was ordered back to the Continental United States for a welcome period of recreation and overhaul. For her participation in the Kuriles bombardments, she had earned a star on the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign ribbon.

On 6 October 1944, the YOUNG left the Golden Gate and headed for the Western Pacific for duty with the Seventh Fleet, for the war had progressed in that area as far as the gates of the Philippines. Reporting to Fleet Headquarters in Manus, Admiralty Islands, on 31 October, she was made a part of the anti-submarine screen escorting a troop convoy which composed the re-supply of the landings on Leyte, Philippine Islands. The reception at Leyte Gulf on 18 November was hostile, the formation being subjected to air attacks, three aircraft being shot down by the screen.

During the operations against Mindoro Island, the YOUNG earned the right to paint five setting sun flags on her gun director by shooting down five Jap planes unassisted and assisting in splashing two others when the convoy was under Jap Kamikaze attack by approximately 25 aircraft.

January nine was the day of commencement of operations against Luzon, and the YOUNG was one of the ships that composed that formidable array of Naval power off Lingayen Gulf. Again the convoy was brought under Jap air attacks, and several vessels of the invasion force were hit by Kamikazes. As the ground forces proceeded Southward from Lingayen, a second assault force was formed to land at San Narcisco, later to make a juncture with the other group North of Manila. The original plans called for a pulverizing pre-invasion bombardment but this was averted when the YOUNG, a short distance off-shore with the intent of scouting enemy installations, received an almost unintelligible signal from some one in a native canoe. The YOUNG stopped, gambling on the absence of Japs, and, when received aboard, the signaler turned out to be a Lieutenant of the Philippine Guerrillas reporting that the immediate area had been taken from the Japs only the day before. The result of this gamble was the elimination of the necessity of a costly bombardment, a speeding up of the operation and a saving of countless Philippine lives, for they were waiting on the beach to receive our forces. Twenty-four hours later our forces were in Subic Bay which had been a pre-war U.S. Naval Base.

The next operation in which the YOUNG participated was the entrance of Manila Bay. On 13-14 February, the same time as the dramatic landings on Iwo Jima farther North, the YOUNG was amongst the ships which bombarded Mariveles and Fortress Corregidor. She was under fire from shore batteries, and managed to silence several, and thereupon entered Manila Bay, the first destroyer to do so since the dark days of 1941.

For the next few months the YOUNG enjoyed a respite from operations against the enemy, spending most of her time in Subic Bay, with intermittent patrol activities.

The last action against the Japs took place in April when the Seventh Fleet supported landings in the Malabang-Parang-Cotabato Area of the Island of Mindanao, the largest and the southernmost of the Philippines.

During this long period in the Philippine waters, the ship qualified for the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one star and two additional stars on the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon for the Leyte and Luzon operations respectively.

On 21 May 1945, the ship received good news, for thoroughly expecting to rejoin her squadron now in the thick of the Okinawa campaign, she was ordered to return to Pearl Harbor. The jubilant cheers could be heard all across Subic Bay. This subsequently turned out to mean a 47 day overhaul at Navy Yard, Mare Island, California and leave for all hands.

Following a post-repair shakedown at San Diego, the ship set out again for Pearl Harbor to return to the war theatre, but the atomic bomb and subsequent peace negotiations had consummated in a cessation of hostilities by the time the ship had reached Pearl Harbor. The YOUNG's first post-war duties were acting as plane guard for the veteran U.S.S. SARATOGA off Maui Island, T.E., during which period she retrieved several Naval pilots from the water at night.

On September 25th, the YOUNG joined various elements of the Third Fleet and headed for the East Coast of the United States via the Panama Canal to participate in Navy Day ceremonies. "Min-can" sailing was a novelty for the 120 Seabees on board as passengers from Pearl Harbor to New York, but the discomforts were cheerfully endured, for the journey was homeward-bound. October 27th, Navy Day found the YOUNG anchored in North River, New York City, almost under George Washington Bridge for the review by President Truman and other dignitaries.

New York provided a fine home-coming for the returning fleet. On 1 November 1945 the YOUNG left New York and steamed towards Charleston, S.C., where she was destined for the Sixteenth (Inactive) Fleet, and, after the work of preservation had been completed in the Navy Yard, Charleston, she was placed in reserve on 31 January 1946 with a skeleton crew on board for maintenance. With guns and engines silenced, she waits lest she be called upon again to serve her country.

The below named officers commanded this vessel during the war years.

Commander George B. Madden, U.S. Navy
21 July 1943 - 25 August 1944
1524, 35th Avenue
Oakland, California.

Commander Donald G. Lockum, U.S. Navy
25 August 1944 - 15 November 1945
312 South Beverly Drive
Beverly Hills, California.

No personnel received awards for the above period and no personnel casualties or damage to the ship was incurred in action against the enemy.